

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

November 9, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 12, 18, 22, 26, 29, 31 and 35 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides and at least one side wall depending from said deck;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and
a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
10 a guard attached to said actuating member and pivotally attached to said deck along two of said at least three sides of said deck, and
a flap depending from said guard and movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
15 oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

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5. (Twice Amended) The mower head of claim 4 wherein two of said deck at least three sides are normal to each other and a third of said at least three sides is positioned at an obtuse angle in relation to said two of
5 said deck at least three sides.

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9. (Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said

blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

a hinge extending between two of said at

B₃ 10 least three sides of said deck,

a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
15 oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

11. (Amended) The mower head of claim 9 wherein one
of said at least three sides comprises a plurality of
angled sections.

B₄ 12. (Amended) The mower head of claim 11 wherein
said guard includes a first wall which comprises a
plurality of angled sections which matingly interconnect
with said angled sections of said one of at least three
5 sides and a second wall which comprises a plurality of
angled sections.

18. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

B₅ 5 three side walls, one depending from each
of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said
three side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
10 blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck,

5 a hinge extending between two of said at
least four sides of said deck,

5 a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and
a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

5 22. (Amended) The mower head of claim 21 wherein
said guard includes a first wall which comprises a
plurality of angled sections which matingly interconnect
with said angled sections of one of said at least four
sides and a second wall which comprises a plurality of
angled sections.

5 26. (Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

10 a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck;
a guard pivotally attached to said deck at
an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said deck which
are adjacent opposed ends of said guard, said guard
including a first wall which comprises an approximately
straight edge and a second wall which comprises a
plurality of angled sections, and

15 a flap which depends from said guard and is
oriented in a plane spaced apart from the plane of said
guard.

29. (Amended) The mower head of claim 26 wherein two

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of said deck at least three sides are normal to each other
and a third of said deck at least three sides is
positioned at an obtuse angle in relation to said two of
5 said at least three sides.

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31. (Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade;
a guard assembly comprising:
a hinge extending between two of said at
least three sides of said deck,
10 a guard pivotally attached to said deck via
said hinge;
a holding member for holding said guard in
one rotational position in relation to said deck; and
a flap extending from said guard and
15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

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35. (Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck comprising at least four sides,
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade;
a guard assembly comprising:
a hinge mounted on said deck, said hinge
extending at an obtuse angle in relation to sides of said
10 deck adjacent opposed ends of said hinge,
a guard pivotally attached to said deck via
said hinge;

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15 a flap extending from said guard and is
movable with respect to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard; and,

20 a linkage assembly for pivoting said guard
in relation to said deck, a first portion of said linkage
assembly being mounted to said guard and a second portion
of said linkage assembly being mounted to said deck.

Please add new claims 38-40 as follows:

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38. The mower head of claim 1, wherein said flap is
a resilient, one-piece flap.

39. The mower head of claim 9, wherein said flap is
a resilient, one-piece flap.

40. the mower head of claim 18, wherein said flap is
a resilient, one-piece flap.
